

CHRISTINE O. GREGOIRE  
Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

P.O. Box 40002 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0002 • (360) 753-6780 • [www.governor.wa.gov](http://www.governor.wa.gov)

January 11, 2007

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Through: Regional Director  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Region X  
130 228<sup>th</sup> Street Southwest  
Bothell, Washington 98201-9796

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5206 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 CFR § 206.36, I request that you declare a major disaster for the State of Washington. A strong Pacific Ocean winter storm struck Washington on the night of December 14 and continued through December 15. The storm brought widespread strong damaging winds to the entire state as the storm center tracked from well off the Pacific coast eastward across the region near the British Columbia border. It also brought one to two inches of heavy rain to parts of western Washington on the 14<sup>th</sup>, producing areas of urban flooding and heavy snow to parts of eastern Washington. The affected counties include Chelan, Clallam, Clark, Grant, Grays Harbor, Island, King, Klickitat, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pend Oreille, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Skamania, Snohomish, Thurston, and Wahkiakum.

In western Washington, peak winds reached 80 to 90 miles per hour (mph) along the coast and 60 to 75 mph elsewhere. A few locations had gusts as high as 85 mph in the interior. Eastern Washington peak winds ranged from 45 to 70 mph with a few locations reaching close to 80 mph. Mountainous areas recorded peak wind speeds in excess of 100 mph, including 135 mph at Mission Ridge near Wenatchee, 113 mph at Chinook Pass and 100 mph at Sunrise in Mt. Rainier National Park.

This winter storm included the strongest winds since the major disaster declared for the 1993 Inauguration Day Wind Storm (FEMA 981-DR) and blew down thousands of trees and knocked out power to close to 1.5 million customers throughout the state. The strong winds damaged



major transmission lines, power poles and other power utility infrastructure. There were four fatalities as a direct result of the storm. Three people in western Washington were killed by falling trees and one person drowned in Seattle when her basement filled with rain runoff. Ten fatalities were indirectly caused by the storm from carbon monoxide poisoning when people attempted to keep warm in sub-zero temperatures.

In response to the situation, I have taken appropriate action under state law and directed the execution of the State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan on December 15, 2006, in accordance with Section 401 of the Stafford Act. I proclaimed a State of Emergency on December 15, 2006, for 17 counties due to extensive damages to the energy infrastructure and issued a second proclamation on December 16, 2006, to include the entire state. In both proclamations, I directed the Emergency Management Division to undertake an evaluation of the damages to public and private property and facilities.

On December 22, 2006, I requested a joint federal, state and local survey of the damaged areas. Preliminary damage assessments indicated the most severe impacts in Washington were to electric utilities, transportation infrastructure, sewer utilities, water supply systems, parks and recreational areas and public buildings. Access for emergency and private vehicles was restricted in many areas throughout the state when roads became impassable due to fallen trees and electrical power lines. Electrical distribution systems and electronic communication systems were severely disrupted and public facilities were damaged by falling trees. At the height of the incident, more than 2 million people were without power, which is nearly one third of the state's population. Some people were without power for up to ten days.

I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the state and the affected local governments and that supplementary federal assistance is necessary. I am specifically requesting Public Assistance for all the affected counties identified above. I am requesting statewide Hazard Mitigation at the 20 percent level because Washington has an Enhanced State Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Washington State Enhanced State Hazard Mitigation Plan was approved by FEMA July 1, 2004.

Preliminary estimates of the types and amount of assistance needed under the Stafford Act are tabulated in Enclosures A and C. Estimated requirements for assistance from certain Federal agencies under other statutory authorities are tabulated in Enclosure B.

The following information is furnished on the nature and amount of state and local resources that have been or will be used to alleviate the conditions of this disaster:

- The Washington State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated at Phase II, Enhanced Operations, on December 15 to monitor and coordinate support for the weather related events, in addition to contingency staffing actions; two State Emergency Operations Officers were on continuous 24 hour duty during this event.
- The Washington State EOC was activated at Phase III, full activation, on December 16 to coordinate support for the weather related events. In addition to the two State Emergency

Operations Officers on continuous 24 hour duty, additional state agency personnel and Emergency Management Division staff were added for 24 hour operations.

- On December 15, 2006, due to extensive weather related damage to the power infrastructure, the Director of the Emergency Management Division signed and forwarded for the Governor's signature a State Proclamation of Emergency in support of the response action being undertaken by state agencies.
- Governor Gregoire proclaimed a State of Emergency on December 16, 2006, for the entire state.
- At the peak of the storm, approximately 2 million residents were without power; and electrical repair crews from British Columbia, eastern Washington, Idaho, Oregon, California and the Midwest were summoned to assist in recovery operations.
- The following counties issued emergency proclamations: Chelan, Clallam, Clark, Grays Harbor, King, Kitsap, Kittitas, Mason, Pend Oreille, Pierce, Snohomish and Thurston.
- The Snoqualmie Tribe issued an emergency proclamation.
- The following cities issued emergency proclamations: Bellevue, Kirkland, Kittitas, Lacey, Lynnwood, Mercer Island, Olympia, Redmond, Snoqualmie, Tumwater, University Place and Vancouver.
- The Washington State Military Department provided generators for special needs populations or emergency services to local jurisdictions.
- The Washington State Military Department provided 15 cots to a senior citizen center in Thurston County.
- The Washington State Patrol provided emergency flares to Mason County.
- The Washington State Department of Transportation provided 46 flagger crews to assist utility companies.
- The Washington State Military Department provided two indoor heaters to the City of Orting.
- The Washington State Department of Transportation provided four reader/message boards to local jurisdictions.
- The Washington State Military Department provided a bi-directional antenna to a shelter in Mason County.

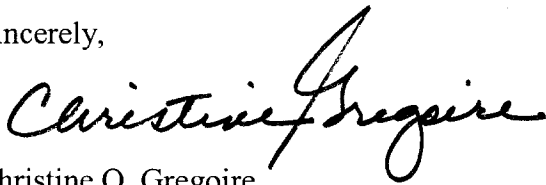
I certify that for this major disaster, the state and local governments will assume all applicable non-federal share of costs required by the Stafford Act. Total expenditures are expected to exceed \$47,149,737 for the Public Assistance Program and \$9,429,949 for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program in accordance with the table in Enclosure E.

In addition, I anticipate the need for debris removal, which poses an immediate threat to lives, public health, and safety.

Pursuant to Sections 403 and 407 of the Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5170b & 5173, the state agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the United States of America for any claims arising from the removal of debris or wreckage for this disaster. The state agrees that debris removal from public and private property will not occur until the landowner signs an unconditional authorization for the removal of debris.

I have designated Kurt Hardin as the State Coordinating Officer for this request. He will work with the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency in damage assessments and may provide further information or justification on my behalf.

Sincerely,



Christine O. Gregoire  
Governor

Enclosures

- A – Estimated Requirements for Public Assistance
- B – Estimated Requirements for Other Federal Agency Programs
- C – Estimated Requirements for Hazard Mitigation
- D – Governor's Certification
- E – Governor's Proclamations
- F – Supplemental Justification

cc: Washington State Congressional Delegation  
Washington State Legislators from Affected Counties  
County Commissioners from Affected Counties  
Emergency Management Directors from Affected Counties  
Office of Financial Management

# ENCLOSURE A

## Estimated Requirements for Public Assistance under the Stafford Act

### CATEGORY

COUNTY	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Total
Chelan	10,864	0	0	0	0	700,000	0	710,864
Clallam	19,020	0	1,240	0	298,350	0	17,133	335,743
Clark	66,650	1,021,822	3,335	5,146	42,300	4,185	0	1,143,438
Grant	17,430	0	10,200	0	2,157,294	100,000	0	2,284,924
Grays Harbor	181,153	5,345	8,700	0	50,364	1,272,983	9,320	1,527,865
Island	18,680	19,827	0	0	33,000	255,000	21,000	347,507
King	3,980,089	2,296,386	1,741,909	46,500	2,227,317	7,733,341	552,277	18,577,819
Klickitat	0	0	0	0	326,494	0	0	326,494
Lewis	392,882	52,718	0	0	49,500	518,794	6,086	1,019,980
Mason	307,059	0	0	0	36,500	2,293,592	15,000	2,652,151
Pacific	12,500	0	20,000	0	55,500	173,459	12,000	273,459
Pend Oreille	3,004	0	0	0	2,500	60,000	0	65,504
Pierce	749,642	3,250,135	153,300	0	528,840	6,143,560	36,370	10,861,847
San Juan	44,000	0	0	0	3,000	0	0	47,000
Skagit	46,217	14,014	1,500	10,000	412,000	2,000	0	485,731
Skamania	0	0	0	0	0	150,000	0	150,000
Snohomish	92,418	14,386	11,100	4,500	7,250	5,251,000	0	5,380,654
Thurston	126,800	554,232	0	0	154,389	11,516	51,820	898,757
Wahkiakum	25,000	0	0	0	0	20,000	15,000	60,000
Totals	6,093,408	7,228,865	1,951,284	66,146	6,384,598	24,689,430	736,006	47,149,737

*Note: Estimates reflect total eligible costs before any cost sharing. Estimates do not include costs to repair to current codes and standards, federal environmental conditions, contingencies, or mitigation proposals.*

**ENCLOSURE B**

Estimated Requirements for Other Federal Agencies

County	SBA Home Loans	SBA Business Loans	FSA Loans	NRCS	FHWA	USACE	OTHER
<i>Chelan</i>							
<i>Clallam</i>					<i>50,000</i>		
<i>Clark</i>					<i>39,000</i>		
<i>Grant</i>					<i>39,000</i>		
<i>Grays Harbor</i>					<i>50,000</i>		
<i>Island</i>					<i>10,000</i>		
<i>King</i>					<i>235,000</i>		
<i>Kitsap</i>					<i>50,000</i>		
<i>Klickitat</i>							
<i>Lewis</i>							
<i>Mason</i>					<i>50,000</i>		
<i>Pacific</i>					<i>39,000</i>		
<i>Pend Oreille</i>							
<i>Pierce</i>					<i>50,000</i>		
<i>San Juan</i>							
<i>Skagit</i>					<i>35,000</i>		
<i>Skamania</i>							
<i>Snohomish</i>					<i>35,000</i>		
<i>Thurston</i>					<i>50,000</i>		
<i>Wahkiakum</i>					<i>35,000</i>		
Totals					<i>767,000</i>		

**ENCLOSURE C**

ESTIMATED REQUIREMENTS FOR HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM

Program	Federal	State	Local	Total
Public Assistance	35,362,303	5,893,717	5,893,717	47,149,737

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Total Federal Public Assistance estimate	35,362,303
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Total federal available for HMGP at 20% of PA federal	7,072,461
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State share of HMGP (half of non-fed share)	1,178,744
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Local share of HMGP (half of non-fed share)	<u>1,178,744</u>
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<b>Total HMGP</b>	<b>\$9,429,949</b>
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**ENCLOSURE D**

**GOVERNOR'S CERTIFICATION**

I, Christine O. Gregoire, Governor of the State of Washington, certify that for this current disaster, State and local government expenditures and obligations will include the non-Federal share of costs required by the Stafford Act. As stated in my basic letter, and based on information available at this time, tabulation of these estimated expenditures and obligations are as follows:

CATEGORY OF ASSISTANCE	AMOUNT	
	STATE	LOCAL
<b>Public Assistance:</b>		
Category A - Debris Removal	761,676	761,676
Category B - Emergency Protective Measures	903,608	903,608
Category C - Roads and Bridges	243,911	243,911
Category D - Water Control Facilities	8,268	8,268
Category E - Buildings and Equipment	798,075	798,075
Category F - Utilities	3,086,179	3,086,179
Category G - Other (Parks, Recreational Facilities, etc.)	92,001	92,001
<b>Total Public Assistance:</b>	<b>5,893,717</b>	<b>5,893,717</b>
<b>Hazard Mitigation Grant Program</b>	<b>1,178,744</b>	<b>1,178,744</b>
<b>Grand Total:</b>	<b>7,072,461</b>	<b>7,072,461</b>

**ENCLOSURE E**  
**GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATIONS**

CHRISTINE O. GREGOIRE  
Governor



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#### PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, a severe wind and rain storm occurred on December 14 and 15, 2006, threatening citizens and property of Washington State; and

The wind storm and associated isolated flooding caused extensive damage to homes, businesses, public utilities, public facilities, and infrastructure in Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Thurston, Wahkiakum, and Whatcom Counties;

The Washington State Military Department has activated the state Emergency Operations Center, implemented response procedures, and is coordinating resources to support local officials in alleviating the immediate social and economic impacts to people, property, and infrastructure, and is assessing the magnitude of the event.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Christine O. Gregoire, Governor of the state of Washington, as a result of the above-noted situation and under Chapters 38.08, 38.52, and 43.06 RCW, do hereby proclaim that a State of Emergency exists in Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Thurston, Wahkiakum, and Whatcom Counties and direct the supporting plans and procedures to the *Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan* be implemented. State agencies and departments are directed to utilize state resources and to do everything reasonably possible to assist affected political subdivisions in an effort to respond to and recover from the event. I also hereby order into active state service the organized militia of Washington State to include the National Guard and the State Guard, or such part thereof as may be necessary in the opinion of the Adjutant General, to perform such duties as directed by competent authority of the Washington Military Department. Additionally, the Washington State Military Department, Emergency Management Division is instructed to coordinate all event-related assistance to the affected areas.

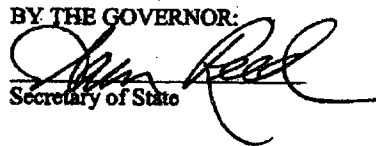
Signed and sealed with the official seal of the state of Washington this 15<sup>th</sup> day of  
December, A.D, Two Thousand and Six at Olympia, Washington.



By:

  
Christine O. Gregoire  
Governor

BY THE GOVERNOR:

  
Secretary of State

CHRISTINE O. GREGOIRE  
Governor



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PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, a severe wind and rain storm occurred on December 14 and 15, 2006, threatening citizens and property of Washington State; and

The wind storm and associated isolated flooding caused extensive damage to homes, businesses, public utilities, public facilities, and infrastructure in all of Washington State;

The Washington State Military Department has activated the state Emergency Operations Center, implemented response procedures, and is coordinating resources to support local officials in alleviating the immediate social and economic impacts to people, property, and infrastructure, and is assessing the magnitude of the event.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Christine O. Gregoire, Governor of the state of Washington, as a result of the above-noted situation and under Chapters 38.08, 38.52, and 43.06 RCW, do hereby simultaneously rescind State Emergency Proclamation dated December 15, 2006, proclaim that a State of Emergency exists in all thirty-nine counties and direct the supporting plans and procedures to the *Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan* be implemented. State agencies and departments are directed to utilize state resources and to do everything reasonably possible to assist affected political subdivisions in an effort to respond to and recover from the event. I also hereby order into active state service the organized militia of Washington State to include the National Guard and the State Guard, or such part thereof as may be necessary in the opinion of the Adjutant General, to perform such duties as directed by competent authority of the Washington Military Department. Additionally, the Washington State Military Department, Emergency Management Division is instructed to coordinate all event-related assistance to the affected areas.

Signed and sealed with the official seal of the state of Washington this 16<sup>th</sup> day of December, A.D. Two Thousand and Six at Olympia, Washington.

By:

  
Christine O. Gregoire  
Governor

BY THE GOVERNOR:

  
Secretary of State



The President  
January 11, 2007  
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**ENCLOSURE F**

**COUNTY SUPPLEMENTAL JUSTIFICATIONS**